

Redemption

Week 1 – Grief in a Foreign World

Transition: In last weeks text we wrapped up 2 Peter. Peter urged believers to strive for holy lives as they waited for Christ's return. He encouraged them to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ and give glory to God both now and to the day of eternity.

Check Point: Would anyone like to share something they worked on from last week's discussion?

Context: In today's text, Elimelech moves his family from Bethlehem to Moab because of a famine. Sadly, Elimelech and his two sons die, leaving Naomi and her two daughter's-in-law alone.

Opening Questions:

- Have you ever had to move before? What challenges did you experience in the process?
- If you could live in a different country for a month, where would you travel and why?

Scripture/Storying: Ruth 1:1-5

Discipleship Questions:

- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?
- Despair from famine motivated Elimelech's decision to move his family to a foreign land. What big decisions have you had to make because of hard times? What was your takeaway from the experience?
- What spiritual, emotional, and cultural challenges might Elimelech's family have experienced in their decision to move to the foreign land of Moab? Share a time when a move (city, school, job) challenged you spiritually, emotionally, and culturally. How did you grow from the experience?
- How do you think losing her husband in a foreign land impacted Naomi? Describe the kind of struggles or questions she may have had with God. Share a time when you struggled and had questions for God. How were you were impacted by the struggle?
- After losing her sons, why is Naomi's situation even more dreadful? Share a time when things went from bad to worse in your life. How did you manage through it?
- How does grief or loss challenge a person's faith? How can the church support others who have experienced great loss as Naomi did?
- How might Naomi's story help someone who feels alone or abandoned?

Prayer time: - Jonathan Mathews (The Southern Cone Initiative, Brazil)

- Pray for the 40 pastors recently trained in the principles of evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. May they take what they have learned and reproduce what was taught for God's glory!